PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

A year of peace and coneral prosperity to this nation has passed since the last assembling of Congress. We have, through a kind Providence, been blessed with abundant crops and have been upared from complications and war with foreign nations. In our midst comparative harmony has been restored. It is to be regretted however, that a free ever. be regretted, however, that a free exercise of the elective franchise has by viocitizens in exceptional cases in several of not lead to the revocation of the suspen-

tion, may confidently be expected to take her place there also, at the beginning of the new year, and then let us hope, will be completed the work of reconstruction. With an acquiescence on the part of the would be respected in Cuba and that, as to the past, a joint tribunal should be go far towards restoring to the United States, with full jurisdiction over all such claims. Before such an impartial tribunal each claimant would be required to prove his case. On whole people in the national obligation to pay the public debt created as the price of our union, the pensions to our disabled soldiers and sailors, and their wi lows and orphans, and in the changes in the constitution, which have been made necessary by the great rebellion, there is no reason why we should not advance in material prosperity and hap piness as no other nation ever did, after so protracted and devastating a war.

AMERICAN PROTECTION.

Soon after the existing war broke out in Europe, the protection of the United States minister in Paris was invoked in and long pending, claim of like nature, favor of the North Germans domiciled in that of the whaleship Canada, has been French territory. Instructions were disposed of by arbitration during the issued to grant such protection. This present year. It was referred by the has been followed by an extension of joint convention of Brazil and the United American protection to citizens of Saxony, Hesse, and Saxe, Coburg, Gotha, Columbia, Portugal, Uraguny, the Do-minican republic, Equador, Chili, Para-guay and Venezuela, in Paris. The charge was an onerous one, requiring constant and severe labor, as well as the exercise of patience, prudence and good judgment. It has been performed to the entire satisfaction of this government, and, as I am officially informed, equally ernment. so to the satisfaction of the government of North Germany.

RECOGNITION OF THE FRENCH REPUBLIC. As soon as I learned that a republic had been proclaimed at Paris, and that the people of France had acquiesced in the change, the minister of the United States was directed by telegraph to recognize it and tender my congratulations and those of the people of the become my duty to communicate the United States. The reestablishment in fact to Congress and invite its action on France of a system of government discon nected with the dynastic traditions of Europe appeared to be a proper subject for the felicitation of Americans. Should the present struggle result in attaching the hearts of the French to our simpler forms of representative government, it will be a subject of still further satisfaction to our people. While we make no effort to impose our institutions upon the political ideas in a great and highly civil

zed country like France, NO ENTANGLING ALL:ANCES.

to use our good offices jointly with those this city on the 29th of October last, at build up our merchant marine; it is to son Bay company sould continue for the of European powers in the interests of established policy and the true interests isters of Spain, Peru, Chili and Equador. of the United States forbade them to In consequence of the absence of a reprewith European powers. I ascertained was adjourned until the attendance of a tion of Cuba and end an exterminating the part of the United States, and recominformally and unofficially, that the government of North Germany was not then disposed to listen to such representations wishing to see the blessings of peace recould only result in injury to our interests without advancing the object for be heartly taken.

NEUTRLITY.

I deem it pradent, by reason of the number of persons of German and French nationality living in the United States, to more closely to our own, and thus give issue, soon after the official notice of a the United States all the pre eminence state of war had been received from both and all the advantage which Mr. Monroe, belligerents, a proclamation defining the duties of the United States as a neutral, and the obligations of persons residing within their territory to observe their laws and the laws of nations. The proclamation was followed by others as cirin preventing violations of the neutrality of the United States.

THE CUBAN SITUATION.

It is not understood that the condition of the insurrection in Cuba has materially changed since the close of the last rated a system of arbitrary arrests; of close confinement; of military trial and pean nations. execution of persons suspected of complicity with the insurgents; a summary
embargo of their property and requisitions upon their revenues by executive ponding benefits. tions upon their revenues by executive ponding benefits.

The government of San Domingo has sidemation to the proper means for country and the sidemation to the proper means for country and the sidemation to the proper means for country and the sidemation to the proper means for country and the sidemation to the proper means for country and the sidemation to the proper means for country and sidematically and si

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violation of the provisions of the treaty less than one hundred and twenty thou-

limited power to aid in redressing such tutions and laws, our progress and civiliwrongs. That power was found to be zation. Shall we refuse them? withdrawn in view, as it was said of the favorable situation in which the island

would be required to prove his case. On the other hand Spain would be at liberty to traverse overy material fact, and thus complete equity would be done.

A SERIOUS CASE. A case which at one time threatened seriously to affect the relations between the United States and Spain has already been disposed of in this way. The claim of the "Col. Lloyd Aspinwall," for the illegal seizure and detention of that ves sel, was referred to arbitration by mutual consent and has resulted in an award to the United States for the owners of the same of \$19,702.50 in gold. Another, States to the decision of Sir Edward Thornton, her Britanic majesty's minister at Washington, who kindly untertook the task of examining the voluminous mass of correspondence and testimony submitted by the two governments, and awarded to the United States the sum of one hundred thousand and seven hun dred dollars and nine cents in gold, which has since been paid by the impe ial gov-

These recent examples show that the mode which the United States has proposed to Spain for adjusting the pending claims is just and feasible, and that it may be agreed to by either nation with out dishonor. It is hoped that this mod orate demand may be acceded to by Spain without further delay. Should the pending negotiations unfortunately and unex pectedly be without result, it will then the subject.

SPAIN AND THE SOUTH AMERICAN REPUB LICS.

The long deferred peace conference, between Spain and the allied South American Republics has been inaugurated eign lands, equal to the entire yield of in Washington under the auspices of the United States, pursuant to the recommendation contained in the resolution of otherwise accomplished. the House of Representatives of the 17th we adhere to our traditional neutrality in of December, 1866, the executive depart civil interests elsewhere, we cannot be indifferent to the spread of American friendly offices for the promotion of adhesion to the Monroe of the promotion of the promotion of adhesion to the Monroe of the promotion of the pr peace and harmony between Spain and measure of national protection; it is within the territory of the United States. the allied Republicans. Hesitations and asserting our just claim to a controlling This information being communicated to obstacles occurred to the acceptance of the offer. Ultimately, however, a conwhich I authorized the secretary of State The answer was made that the to preside. It was attended by the min-hed policy and the true interests isters of Spain, Peru, Chili and Equador. plenipotentiary from that republic could be secured, or other measures could be paying our honest debts without overtaxadopted toward compassing its objects. from any powers, and, though earnestly The allied and other republics of Spanish origin on this continent may see in this life at cheaper rates than ever before stored to the belligerents, with all of fact a new proof of our sincere interest whom the United States are on terms of in their welfare; of our desire to see friendship, I declined on the part of this them blessed with good governments, government to take such a step which capable of maintaining order and preserving their respective territorial integrity, and of our siccere wish to extend our intervention was invoked. our own commercial and social relations Should the time come when the action of with them. The time is probably not far the United States can hasten the return distant when, in the natural course of of peace by a single hour, such action will events, the European political connection with this continent will cease. Our policy should be shaped in view of this probability, so as to ally the commercial interests of the Spanish American States Mr. Adams and Mr. Clay contemplated when they proposed to join in the same

Congress at Panama. SAN DOMINGO.

During the last session of Congress a treaty for the annexation of the republic cumstances seemed to call for. The of San Domingo to the United States people, thus acquainted in advance of failed to receive the requisite two third their duties and obligations, have assisted vote of the Senate. I thoroughly con tinced them that the best interests of the country, commercially and materially, demanded its ratification. Time has only confirmed me in this view. I now firmly believe that the moment it is known that the United States has entirely abandoned session of Congress. At an early stage of the project of accepting as a part of its the contest the authorities of Spain inau. territory the island of San Domingo, a free port will be negotiated for by Euro-

In the bay of Samana a large commer-

of 1795 between the United States and Spain. Representations of injuries resulting to several persons claiming to be citizens of the United States, by reason of such violation, were made to the Spanish government from April 1869 to June last. The Spanish minister at Washington had been glothed with a vary for the protection of our free institutions. Washington had been clothed with a years for the protection of our free insti-

ITS GEOGRAPHICAL ADVANTAGE. The acquisition of San Domingo is tence and intimidation been denied to of Cuba then was, which however, did desirable, because of its geographical citizens in exceptional cases in several of not lead to the revocation of the suspenthe States lately in rebellion, and that the sion of the extraordinary and arbitrary the Caribbean sea and the Isthmus transit verdict of the people has thereby been functions exercised by the executive of commerce. It possesses the richest power in Cuba, and we were obliged to make our complaint at Madrid.

bors, the most salubrious climate and the bors, the most salubrious climate and the The States of Virginia, Mississippi and Texas have been restored to representation in our national councils. Georgia, the only State now without representation, may confidently be expected to take

OTHER ADVANTAGES.

In case of foreign war it will give us command of all the seaboards referred to and thus prevent an enemy from again possessing himself of a rendezvous upon our coast. It protects our coast trade between the States bordering on the Atlantic and those bordering on the gulf of Mexico by way of the Bahamas and the Antilles. Twice we must, as it were, pass through foreign countries to get from Georgia to the east coast of Florida. San Domingo, with a staple govern-ment, under which her immense resources can be developed, will give remunerative wages to ten thousand laborers not now upon the island. This labor will take advantage of every avaiable means of transportation to abandon the adjacent islands and seek the blessings of its freedom and its sequence-each inhabitant to receive the reward of his own labor. Porto Rico and Cuba will have to abolish slavery as a measure of self preservation to retain their laborers.

COMMERCIAL ADVANTAGES.

San Domingo will become a large con sumer of the products of Northern farms and manufactories. The cheap rate at which provisions can be furnished, with food, tools, and improved machinery, will make it necessary that contiguous islands should have the same advantages, in order to compete with it in the production of sugar, coffee, tobacco, tropical fruits, etc. This will open to us a wider market for our products. The production of our supply of these articles will cut off more than one hundred millions of our annual imports, besides largely increasing our

With such a picture it is easy to see how our large debt abroad is ultimately to be extinguished. With a balance of rude against us, including the interest on bonds held by foreigners, and the money shipments of our citizens traveling in for-

conflict; it is to provide honest means of mend an appropriation for that pupose. ing the people; it is to furnish our citizens with the necessaries of every day and it is, in fine, a rapid stride toward that greatness which the intelligence, industry and enterprise of the citizens of the United States entitle this country to assume among nations.

In view of the importance of this the best means of acquiring San Domingo My suggestion is that, by a joint resolu-tion of the two houses of Congress the executive be authorized to appoint a commissioner to negotiate for a treaty with the authorities of San Domingo for the acquisition of that island, and that an appropriation be made to defray the expenses of such commission. The question may then be determined by the action of the two houses of Congress upon a resolution of annexation, as in the case of the annexation of Texas. So convinced am I of all the advantages to flow from the acquisition of San Domingo, and of the great disadvantages-I might say calamitiesto flow from non-acquisition, that I believe the subject has only to be inves tigated to be approved.

MEXICO AND THE PREE ZONE.

It is to be regretted that our repre can government in exempting from import duties a large tract of its territory on our borders have not only been fruit-

It is the obvious interest, especially of neighboring nations, to provide against subjects, the right of taking fish in cer-injury to those who may have committed tain waters therein defined—in the waters high crimes within their borders, and who may have sought refuge abroad. For this purpose extradition treatise have been concluded with several of the Central American Republies and others are in progress.

CLAIMS AGAINST VENEZUELA.

The senses of Congress is desired as early as may be ecovenient upon the probeen deemed advisable to distribute any of the money which has been received from that government until Congress shall have acted upon the subject.

THE TIEN TSIN MASSACRE.

The massacre of the French and Rusian residents at Tien Tsin, under circumstances of great barbarity, were supposed by some to have been premeditated and to indicate a purpose among the populace to exterminate foreigners in the Chinese empire. The evidence fails to establish such a supposition, but shows a complicity of the local authorities with the mob-The government at Pekin, however, seems to have been disposed to fulfil its treaty bligations, so far as it was able to do so. Unfortunately, the news of the war hetween the German States and France ine the master on oath truching the cargo dian frontier.

Since Mr. Clay advanced his argument It would appear that the popular mind heavy pecuniary pennity if true answers in behalf of our right, the principle for became possessed with the idea that the are not given; and if such a vessel is which he contented has been frequently reached China soon after the massacre contest, extending to Chinese waters, would neutralize the Christian influence and power, and that the time was coming when the superstitious mass might expel all foreigners and restore 3 and ain in fluence. Anticipating trouble from this cause, I invited France and North Ger many to make an authorized suspension of hostilities in the East, where they were temporarily suspended by act of the com manders, to act together for the future protection in China of the lives and prosperity of Americans and Europeans.

THE SLAVE TRADE.

Since the adjournment of Congress, the ratification of the treaty with Great Britain for the abolition of the mixed courts for the suppress on of the slave trade, has teen recognized. It is believed that the slave trade is now confined to the ea-tern coast of Africa, where the slaves are taken to Arabian markets.

The ratifications of the naturalization conventions between Great Britain and the United States have also been ex

In April last, while engaged in locating a military reservation near Pembina, a convention of 1818, the British commis corps of engineers discovered that the commonly received boundary line between the United States and British possessions recious metals in this country, it is not one case of the Luited States and that place is about fifty seven hundred feet south of the true position of the zenith parallel, and the line, when run on what is now supposed to be the true position of San Domingo is an of the Hudson Bay Company at Pembina dhesion to the Monroe doctrine; it is a state and the line, when run on what is now supposed to be the true position of the Britanic majesty's subjects resid ing within the limits assigned for their distribution to the limits assigned for their true position of the Hudson Bay Company at Pembina dhesion to the Monroe doctrine; it is a like the true position of the Hudson Bay Company at Pembina goods, wares or merchandise whatever. at that place is about fifty seven bundred influence over the great commercial traffic soon to flow from West to East by way of the isthmus of Darien; it is to British occupation of the fort of the Hudopen new markets for the products of our present. I deem it important, however, farms, shops and manufactories; it is to that this part of the boundary line should make slavery insupportable in Cuba and be definitely fixed by a joint commission Porto Rico at once, and ultimately so in of the governments, and submit the esti-Brazil; it is to settle the unhappy condi | mates of the expense of such a mission on

The land boundary is already fixed and marked from the summit of Rocky moun tains to the Georgian bay. It should now be in like manner marked from the Lake of the Woods to the summit of the Rocky mountains,

THE ALABAMA CLAIMS.

I regret to say that no conclusion has been reached for the adjustment of the claims against Great Britain growing out question, I carnestly urge upon Congress of the course adopted by that government carly action expressive of its views as to during the rebellion. The cabinet of London, so far as its views have been expressed, does not appear to be willing to concede that her majesty's government was gulity of negligence, or did or per mitted any act during the war by which the United States has just cause of complaint. Ever firm and unalterable, my convictions are directly the reverse, and I therefore recommend to Congress to authorize the appointment of a commis sion to take proof of the amount and the ownership of their claims, on notice to the representative of her majesty at Washington, and that authority be given for the commencement of these claims by the United States, so that the government shall have the ownership of the private claims as well as the responsible control of all the claims against Great Britain.

It cannot be necessary to add that whenever her majesty's government shall sentatives in regard to the injurious entertain a desire for a full and friendly effects, especially upon the revenue of the adjustment of these claims, the United United States, of the policy of the Mexi. States will enter upon their consideration with an earnest desire for a conclusion consistent with the bonor and dignity of both nations.

habitants of the United States should Mr. Clay unquestionably demonstrated the have forever, in common with British natural right of the citizens of the Unithe custom for many years to give intruding fishermen of the United tates a rea fishery grounds to the colonial authority known as the Dominion of Canada, and

in an un'riendly way. Vessels have been seized without notice or warning, in violation of the custom previously prevail-ing, and have been taken into the colonial he vessel condemned. There is reason sit. to believe that this unfriendly and vexa-

ble jurisdiction over the vessels of the United States. They authorize officers of the States bordering on the shores of the lakes was only 3.400,000, it now within three marine miles of any of the coasts, bays creeks or harbors of Canada. coasts, bays creeks or harbors of Canada, into port ; to search the cargo ; to exam and voyage, and to inflict upon him a miles of any such coasts, bays, creeks or or by treaty, and has been extended to harbors without a license, or after the expiration of the period named in the concluded at Mayence in 1831, the Rhine It is not known that any condemnations

take such steps as may be necessary to eration, by treaty, threw open the free protect the rights of the citizens of the navigatin of the Parona and Uruguay to United States. It has been claimed by the merchant ressels of all nations. to enter the open ports of the British the Danube. In 1858 Bolivia, by trenty, possessions in North America, except for declared it regarded the rivers Amizon the purposes of shelter and repairing dum and Da Platte, in accordance with fixed ages, of purchasing wood and obtaining principles of national law, as highways It is not known that any seizure of a Amazon to be open to the frontier of tishing vessel, carrying the flag of the Brazil to the merchant ships of all na-United States, has been made under this tions. ernments has been settled in accordance with the principles always contended for by the United States.

THE NORTHWEST BOUNDARY.

Claim. So far as the claim is founded on the growtest living British authority on this subject, while asserting the adtion of 1818, it cannot be acquiesced in by the United States. It is hoped that it will not be insisted on by her maintain.

guage of the convention was emphatic- the linited States. The whole nation is ioner and thereupon was abandoned by tation from the agricultural States of the the British plenipotentiaries, and article colonial statues, and not upon the convention, this government can but regard them as unfriendly and in contravention treaty, for the faithful execution of which the imperial government is alone

responsible.

Anticipating that an attempt may pos sibly be made by the Canadian authorities in the coming season to repeat their un neighborly act toward our fishermen, I recommend you to confer upon the Exec tive the power to suspend by proclamation the operation of the laws authorizing the transit of goods, wares and merchan dise in bond across the territory of the United States to Canada. And further, should such an extreme measure become necessary, to suspend the operation of any laws whereby the vessels of the Dominion of Canada are permitted to enter the waters of the United States.

maintenance of a claim of right to ex- ducted in American vessels. clude the citizens of the United States from the navigation of the St. Lawrence. This river constitutes a natural outlet to the ocean for eight States, with an aggre gate population of 17.600,000 inhabitants and with an aggregate tonnage of 661. that can compete with foreign ships in 867 tons upon the waters which discharge into it. The foreign commerce of their the United States than in foreign counports on these waters is open to British tries that without some assistance from bottoms. If the American seamen be the government they cannot be successfully built here will be several ocean the monopoly of the direct company to the Atlantic course of the laborate to the Atlantic course of the present session looking to country to extend the limits, within which the privilege adverted to has hither to been enjoyed. The expediency of looking into and giving your serious connections at some cost to the mational treasury. I looking into and giving your serious connections at some cost to the mational treasury. I have a some cost to the mational treasury. I looking into and giving your serious connections to the mational treasury at some cost to the mational treasury. I looking into and giving your serious connections to the mational treasury. I looking into and giving your serious connections to the mational treasury. I looking into and giving your serious connections to the mational treasury. I looking into and giving your serious connections to the mational treasury. I looking into and giving your serious connections to the mational treasury. I looking into and giving your serious connections to the mational treasury. I looking into and giving your serious connections to the mational treasury. I looking into and giving your serious connections to the mational treasury. I looking into and giving your serious connections to the mational treasury. I looking into and giving your serious connections to the mational treasury. I looking to the course pursued by the Canadian would be in foreign hands, their vessels are medy for this evil, even if it should be in foreign hands, their vessels are medy for this evil, even if it should be in foreign hands, their vessels are medy for this evil, even if it should be in foreign hands, their vessels are medy for this evil, even if it should be in foreign hands, their vessels are medy for this evil, even if it should be in foreign hands, their vessels are medy for this evil, even if it should be in foreign hands, their vessels are medy for this evil, even if it should be in foreign hands. merce of the lake ports to the Atlantic course of the present session looking to

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ted States to the navigation of this river. Claiming the act of Congress of Vienna not included in the limits named in the in opening the Rhine and other rivers to convention, and within three miles of all nations showed the judgement of Euports of the British coast. It has been repean jurists in the statement t at the inhabitants of a country through which ing fishermen of the United tates a rea a navigable river passes, have a natural sonable warning of the violation of the right to enjoy the navigation of that technical rights of Great Britain. The river to and into the sea, even though imperial government is understood to passing through the territory of another have delegated the whole of these rhore power. This right does not exclude fishery grounds to the colonial authority the exequal right of the sovereign possessing the territory through which the against Venezuela, as communicated in this semi independent, but irresponsible river debouches into the sea to make the messages of March 4, 1869, March 1, 1870 and March 31, 1870. It has not in an univiendly way. Vessels have been of the navigation as may be reasonably such regulations relative to the policy of the navigation as may be reasonably necessary, but those regulations should be framed in a liberal spirit of comity, and should not impose needless burd as upon parts, and their voyages broken up, and the commerce which has the right of tran-

It has been found in practice more adtious treatment was designed to bear vantageous to arrange these regulations harshly upon the hardy fishermen of the by mutual agreement. The United United States, with a view of political States are ready to make any reasonable effect upon this government.

The statutes of the Dominion of Canada Lawrence which may be suggested by assume a still broader and more untena- Great Britain. If the claim made by Mr. Clay was just when the population and tonnage of the States on the Cana-

found preparing to fish within the matine and by various nations recognized by law last license granted to it, they provide that the vessel with her tackle, etc., shall be forfeited.

was declared free from the point where it is navigable into the sea. By the convention between Spain and Portugal, concluded in 1835, the navigation of the have been made under this statute. Dours, throughout its whole extent, was Should the authorties of Canada attempt made free for the subjects of Both to enforce it, it will become my duty to crowns. In 1853 the Argentice confedher majesty's officers that the fishing 1566 the Crimean war closed by a treaty vessels of the United States have no right which provided for the free navigation of water, and that they have no right to or channels opened by nature for the enter at the British custom houses or to commerce of all nations. In 1859 the trade, except the purchise of wood and the Paraguay was made free by treaty, water, and that they must depart within and in December 1866, the emperor of twenty-four hours after notice to leave Brazil, by imperial decree, declared the

government. During the conferences law, but it is equally difficut to deny, first which preceded the negotiation of the that in so doing she exercises harshly an extreme and barsh law; second, that her sioners proposed to expressly exclude the conduct with respect to the navigation of fishermen of the United Sta es from the the St Lawrence is in glaring and disprivilege of carrying on trade with any creditable inconsistency with her conduct

except such as may be necessary for the On the ground that she possessed both prosecution of their voyages to and from banks of the St. Lawrence where it dissaid fishing grounds, and any vessel of embodies itself into the sea, she denies the United States which shall contravene to the United States the right of navigathis regulation may be seized condemned tion, though about one half of the waters and confiscated with her cargo.

Of lakes Ontario, Erie, Huron, Superior Inis position, which is identical with and the whole of lake Michigan, through he construction now put upon the lan which the river flows, are the property of ily rejected by the American commis- interested in securing through transpor-West to the Atlantic seaboard To the one, as it stands in the convention, was citizens of these States it secures a substituted. If however, it be said that greater return for their labor; to the inthis cluim is founded on provincial or habitants of the seaboard it offers cheaper food, and to the nation on increase in the annual surplus of wealth.

It is hoped that the government of of the spirit if not the letter the of Great Britain will see the justice of abandoning the narrow and inconsistent claim to which her Canadian provinces have urged her adherence.

OUR DEPRESSED COMMERCE

is a subject to which I called your special attention at the last session, and suggerted but we would in the future have to look more to to the co ntries South of us, to China and Japan far its revisal. Our representatives to all these governments have exerted thir influence to encourage trade between the United States and the countries to which they are accredited, but the fact exists that the carrying is done almost entirely in foreign bottoms, and while this state of offairs exists we cannot control our due share of the commerce of the world. " hat between the A like unfriendly disposition has been Pacific State and China and Japan is manifested on the part of Canada in the about all the carrying trade now con-

I would recommend a liberal policy towards that line of American steamers -one that will insure its success and even increase its usefulness. The cost of building iron vessels-the only ones the carrying trade-is so much greater in